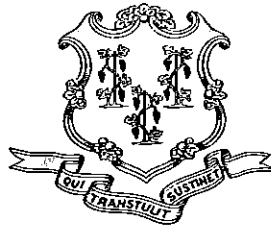


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March 10, 2010

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to testify in support of S. B. No. 230, AN ACT CONCERNING THE VIDEOTAPING OF CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS and H.B. 5273, AN ACT CONCERNING EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION.

I have long been an advocate for the taping of custodial interrogations, as I believe that this procedure protects both the police and the suspects in the interrogation process. S. B. No. 230, AN ACT CONCERNING THE VIDEOTAPING OF CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS would move our state in this direction. While historically law enforcement officers have viewed taping of confessions with some trepidation, once they begin the process many of them become advocates for it. The Chief State's Attorney, Kevin Kane, has been helpful in increasing the use of taping custodial interrogations. If you would like more information on taping of confessions and the positive response from law enforcement I would be pleased to share with you a report from the Northwestern

University School of Law, "Police Experiences with Recording Custodial Interrogation." Taping of confessions would ensure greater accountability in our judicial system.

In addition, H.B. 5273, AN ACT CONCERNING EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION, would represent another improvement in the accuracy of our judicial system by addressing the notorious conundrum of eyewitness identification. Everyone involved with the criminal justice system is well aware that eyewitness identification can be a double edged sword. It is prone to stunning inaccuracy, but it is also perhaps the most compelling testimony in a courtroom. Therefore, we have an obligation to ensure that this testimony is as accurate as possible. H.B. 5273 would reduce the probability of error or of undue influence by law enforcement by, among other things, requiring that the line-up or photographs be shown in sequential order rather than simultaneously and that, when possible, the person conducting the identification procedure should not know who in the line-up or photographs is the suspected offender, and that the fillers in the line-up generally fit the description of the suspected offender. These proposals would increase confidence in the investigative techniques used by our criminal justice system. Thank you for raising bills on these important issues.